already started shifting these slum settlements. In addition, recently, AAI has also carried out demolition of unauthorised settlements which were posing a security hazard for aircraft operations. In terms of the policy of the State Government of Maharashtra, only those slum dwellers whose names appear in the survey and who were in existence prior to 1.1.95 are eligible for rehabilitation. The work of removal of encroachments and rehabilitation of the displaced slum dwellers is undertaken by State Government of Maharashtra.

Air Connectivity

†3091. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India, Indian Airlines and private sector airways have been unable to connect the country by air so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there have been some policy related reasons behind this;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it will be beneficial if Ministry of Tourism and Culture and Ministry of Civil Aviation sign an agreement to act together under a common policy development scheme; and

(d) the criteria Government would adopt for establishing the quality of aircraft during their purchase?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India, in addition to its international operations, provides connections to 12 domestic destinations. Indian Airlines and Alliance Air together link 63 destinations on their domestic network. Further, with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services in the country, Government has laid down the "Route Dispersal Guidelines" taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions including remote and in-accessible areas particularly the North-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Eastern Region. However, it is upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the available traffic demand and commercial viability of such operations subject to compliance of the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation actively co-operates with Ministry of Tourism and Culture for the development of both Civil Aviation and Tourism industries in the country. Further, the present policies/ guidelines of the Government aim at achieving all round development in both the sectors.

(d) The aircraft purchased/operated by the airlines in the country must meet the requirements laid down by the airworthiness'regulatory authority of the country of manufacture of the aircraft as well as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which is the regulatory /airworthiness authority in India.

Air services from Srinagar for Haj Pilgrims

3092. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a direct flight for Haj Pilgrimages from Srinagar to Jeddah Sharif;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 40 per cent Muslim population of Jammu Province is deprived of this facility;

(c) if so, whether Government will start such a direct flight for Hajis from Jammu to Jeddah Sharif from next year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The number of pilgrims who proceeded for Haj from Jammu Province is very small. As against a total of 5,672 pilgrims who proceeded for Haj-2002 from Kashmir Valley, the number of Pilgrims of Jammu Province is only 525.

(c) and (d) Starting a new embarkation point is a policy decision